

**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**PETITION TO MODIFY THE APPLICATION FOR
CERTIFICATION OF THE BLYTHE ENERGY POWER
PLANT PROJECT**

Docket No. 99-AFC-8C

**PRESIDING MEMBER'S PROPOSED DECISION
ON AMENDMENT PETITION**

The Committee hereby submits the Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD) for the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Modification sponsored by Blythe Energy in eastern Riverside County. We prepared this document pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Energy Commission's regulations and we recommend approval of the Amendment Application. [Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 20, § 1769.]

The Energy Commission will consider the PMPD at its regularly scheduled business meeting on October 11, 2006, as noticed by the Committee Notice of Availability and Notice of Commission Hearing issued concurrently with the PMPD.

Dated on September 26, 2006, at Sacramento, California.

Original signed by:

JOHN L. GEESMAN
Commissioner and Presiding Member
Blythe Transmission Line Modification AFC Committee

Original signed by:

JAMES D. BOYD
Commissioner and Associate Member
Blythe Transmission Line Modification AFC Committee

**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**PETITION TO MODIFY THE APPLICATION FOR
CERTIFICATION OF THE BLYTHE ENERGY POWER
PLANT PROJECT**

Docket No. 99-AFC-8C

COMMISSION DECISION ON AMENDMENT PETITION

An evidentiary hearing regarding the above amendment was conducted by the Blythe Transmission Line Siting Committee, John L. Geesman, Presiding Member, on September 22, 2006. The evidence was submitted on stipulation of the parties present and consists of:

- Exhibit 1 Petition For Post Certification Amendment (99-AFC-8),** October 12, 2004.
- Exhibit 2 Request for Confidentiality - Volume II, Preliminary Cultural Resources Survey, and Appendix D-2, Archaeological Site Records,** for the Blythe Energy Project (99-AFC-8) Petition for Transmission Amendment, 10/12/04.
- Exhibit 3 Notice Relating to Data Responses,** for the Blythe Energy Project (99-AFC-8) Petition for Transmission Amendment, 11/09/04.
- Exhibit 4 Status Report No. 1,** for the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Amendment (99-AFC-8C), 12/13/04.
- Exhibit 5 Confidential Cultural Resources Survey of the proposed Blythe Energy Transmission Line Project (99-AFC-8C),** 12/21/04.
- Exhibit 6 Blythe Energy's Notice of Inability to Respond and Objections to CEC Staff Data Request, Set 2,** for the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Amendment (99-AFC-8C), 12/23/04.
- Exhibit 7 Blythe Energy, LLC's Preliminary Comments on the Preliminary Staff Assessment,** for the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Amendment (99-AFC-8C), 02/11/05.

- Exhibit 8** **Blythe Energy, LLC's Supplemental Responses to CEC Data Requests #70 and #118**, for the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Amendment (99-AFC-8C), 03/31/05.
- Exhibit 9** **Application for Confidential Designation, and Confidential Draft Cultural Resources Inventory, Volume II** for the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Amendment (99-AFC-8C), 06/16/05.
- Exhibit 10** **CAISO Review of System Impact Study of Blythe Energy Project I's Proposed Transmission Connection to the Palo Verde-Devers 500 kV Line**, for the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Amendment (99-AFC-8C), 11/17/05.
- Exhibit 11** **Blythe Energy's Status Report No. 2**, for the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Amendment (99-AFC-8C), 01/05/05.
- Exhibit 12** **Blythe Energy, LLC's Supplemental Comments on the Preliminary Staff Assessment**, for the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Amendment (99-AFC-8C), 03/09/05.
- Exhibit 13** **Application for Confidential Designation, and Confidential Draft Cultural Resources Inventory of the Proposed Alternate Midpoint Substation** for the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Amendment (99-AFC-8C), 06/08/05.
- Exhibit 14** **System Planning Study**, for the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Amendment (99-AFC-8C), 06/27/05.
- Exhibit 15** **Responses to California Energy Commission Staff Data Requests 1-99**, November 30, 2004.
- Exhibit 16** **Supplemental Response to Data Requests (Data Requests #41, 51, 59, 65, 71, 73n, 74m)**, December 13, 2004.
- Exhibit 17** **Responses to Data Requests and Comments from Western Area Power Administration**, December 23, 2004.
- Exhibit 18** **Responses to Data Requests Round 2**, January 13, 2005.
- Exhibit 19** **Supplemental Analysis - Proposed Route Realignments for Milepost 0.5-3.0 and Milepost 64.5-67.4**, February 2005.
- Exhibit 20** **Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Amendment Response to Data Request No. 63**, March 7, 2005.

- Exhibit 21** Supplemental Responses to Data Requests (Data Request #70), March 23, 2005 .
- Exhibit 22** Supplemental Responses to Data Requests (Soil & Water Resources Data Request #65), April 16, 2005 .
- Exhibit 23** Supplemental Responses to Data Requests (Visual Resources data Request # 88), April 24, 2005.
- Exhibit 24** Cultural Resources Inventory of the Proposed Alternate Midpoint Substation Blythe Energy Transmission Project Riverside County California – Addendum to Cultural Resources Inventory, June 7, 2005.
- Exhibit 25** Supplemental Analysis: Proposed Route Realignment for Poles #289-305 & New Midpoint Substation Location, July 7, 2005.
- Exhibit 26** System Planning Study for the FPLE Blythe Energy Buck-DPV1 Transmission Project, August 8, 2005.
- Exhibit 27** CAISO Correspondence - Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Modifications (BEPTL) – Buck Blvd. – Julian Hinds 230kV Transmission Line Preliminary Interconnection Approval, May 6, 2005.
- Exhibit 28** CAISO Correspondence - CAISO Review of the System Impact Study of Blythe Energy Project I's Proposed Transmission Connection of the Buck Blvd. Substation to the Palo Verde – Devers 500-kV Line, August 12, 2005.
- Exhibit 29** CAISO Correspondence - CAISO Review of SCE's Addendum to the System Impact Study of the Blythe Energy Project I's Proposed Transmission Connection to the PaloVerde – Devers 500-kV Line (BEPI 500kV Tie Line Project), December 19, 2005.
- Exhibit 30** Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Modifications - Interconnection Mitigation Measures January 23, 2006
- Exhibit 31** Supplemental Analysis – DSWTP Midpoint Substation Option and Alignments for Milepost 65.5-67.4 Near Julian Hinds, August 7, 2006.
- Exhibit 32** FAA Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation, 3/14/2005.

Exhibit 33 Email From Nancy Whitson, WAPA to Jack Hochheimer, FPL describing Western Area Power Administration, process, dated 7/11/06.

Exhibit 34 Blythe Energy LLC's Testimony for the Blythe Energy Transmission Line Modification, September 19, 2006.

Exhibit 100 Revised Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Assessment, dated September 2006, including, by reference, the documents referred to therein.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The parties agree that it is appropriate to approve the proposed amendment as described by Commission staff in the Revised Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Assessment (Exhibit 100, "RSA/DEA") with one correction to Condition **WASTE -6** described below.

Based on the above evidence, the Energy Commission concludes that the proposed changes will not result in any significant impact to public health and safety or the environment and finds that:

1. The petition meets all the filing criteria of Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1769(a), concerning post-certification project modifications;
2. The proposed modification will not change the findings in the Energy Commission's Final Decision pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1755;
3. The project will remain in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards;
4. There will be no new or additional unmitigated significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed modification;
5. The proposed modification will be beneficial to the public and project owner in that it will provide additional transmission capacity between the project owner's generating facility and the Southern California electricity market, increasing the supply of energy in that market, and will allow for better coordination of the project owner's proposed transmission facilities with those proposed by Caithness Blythe II, LLC; and
6. There has been a substantial change in circumstances justifying the proposed modification in that certain transmission facilities upon which the project owner intended to rely in delivering its power to Southern California

did not materialize after certification of the Blythe Energy Project, necessitating identification and approval of substitute transmission facilities.

ORDER

The California Energy Commission hereby adopts Staff's recommendations and approves the following changes to the Blythe Energy Project's Decision. The Project Description is amended to include:

1. A midpoint substation connecting to Southern California Edison's DPV-1 transmission line at either the "Proposed Midpoint Substation" location or the "Proposed DSW Midpoint Substation" location shown on Appendix B Figure 3 of the RSA/DEA, to be chosen by the project owner at its discretion,
2. A 6.7 or 11.9 mile (depending on the midpoint location chosen) transmission line connecting the new midpoint substation to the existing Buck Boulevard Substation along the route shown on Appendix B Figures 2 and 3 in the RSA/DEA,
3. Modification of existing switching equipment and the addition of new equipment, resulting in a small expansion of the Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) Julian Hinds Substation near Hayfield, and
4. A 67.4 mile transmission line between the Buck Boulevard Substation and the Julian Hinds Substation, following the route shown on Project Description Figures 2, 4, 5 and 6 of the RSA/DEA. If the midpoint substation and transmission line are constructed, the Julian Hinds transmission line will share transmission towers with that line until the midpoint substation is reached, at which point, it will continue to the west toward the MWD Julian Hinds Substation.

///

///

The Conditions of Certification are amended as provided in the attached Revised Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Assessment with the following additional amendment:

In Condition of Certification **WASTE-6**, the second sentence is amended to begin with "Results of the evaluation," replacing "Results of the excavation."

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated October 11, 2006, at Sacramento, California.

JACKALYNE PFANNENSTIEL
Chairman

JAMES D. BOYD
Vice Chair

JOHN L. GEESMAN
Commissioner

ARTHUR H. ROSENFELD
Commissioner

JEFFREY D. BYRON
Commissioner